



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

- WHEREAS: In the State of Georgia, more than 70,000 individuals reside in long-term care facilities, including approximately 370 nursing facilities and 2,600 board and care, personal care homes, and assisted living communities; and
- WHEREAS: Federal and state laws guarantee and protect the rights of residents in order to promote and maintain resident dignity and autonomy. All residents should be informed of their rights so they are comfortable and may feel empowered to live with pride and self-determination; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia reaffirms the rights of each long-term care resident to participate in decisions regarding care, to exercise the right to vote, and to engage in the political process; and
- WHEREAS: Organizations and individuals such as the long-term care ombudsmen protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of long-term care facility residents, acting as a voice for those who often cannot speak for themselves and collaborating with state and law enforcement agencies to intervene and prevent resident abuse; and
- WHEREAS: The Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, authorized by the Federal Older Americans Act and Georgia law, was established nearly four decades ago to improve the quality of care and life of residents living in long-term care facilities; and
- WHEREAS: This month, individuals and organizations across the country will celebrate Residents' Rights Month with the theme "It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices" to emphasize the respect and dignity of each resident and highlight the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy, and resident-centered decision making; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF